

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SCOTTISH - AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL PLANS

REF: EDINBURGH 051

1. SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ON BICENTENNIAL PLANS IN DUNDEE MARCH 25-26 PRODUCED FOLLOWING BENEFICIAL RESULTS FROM POINT OF VIEW OF THIS OBSERVER:

A) SINCE THIS WAS REPORTEDLY THE FIRST TIME THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN AMERICAN STUDIES IN SCOTLAND HAD EVER BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER, THE TANGENTIAL ACTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE EIGHT RELATIVELY SELF-CENTERED AND SELF-RELIANT UNIVERSITIES WERE EXPOSED FOR THE COMMON INTEREST, AND HOPEFULLY, MUTUAL PROFIT.

B) BETTER STILL, ENTHUSIASM FOR AND EVIDENCE OF FUTURE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS DEVELOPED: WITNESS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE A UNIVERSITY INFORMATION CLEARING HOUSE FOR PLANS AND PROJECTS INVOLVING THE US.

C) MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE STANDING COMMITTEE REACHED A DECISION TO RECOMMEND TO THEIR PRINCIPALS THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL UNIVERSITIES IN THE "SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES CONFERENCE ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION", ENVISIONING NOT ONLY THE ORIGINAL, UNIQUE SCOTTISH CONTRIBUTION OF 200 YEARS VINTAGE, BUT ALSO THE BROADER FUTURE OF SCOTTISH-AMERICAN

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RELATIONS AS SEEN TODAY AND A BROADENING OF THE HISTORICAL

APPROACH TO OTHER DISCIPLINES AND SPHERES OF SCOTTISH-AMERICAN
ACTIVITY, E.G., OIL, R AND D, ENVIRONMENT.

2. VISITING CULTURAL ATTACHE RITCHESON CLEARLY DESERVED THE
PRAISE AND DEFERENCE HE RECEIVED FROM SCOTS THROUGHOUT THE
PROCEEDINGS AND SHOULD RECEIVE FROM THE USG FOR THE POSITIVE
CONTRIBUTION HE MADE TO THE AMERICAN IMAGE AND ITS CULTURAL
GOALS, IF ANY, IN SCOTLAND.

3. AT A TIME WHEN THE FRENCH INSTITUTE OF EDINBURGH, GERMAN
INSTITUTE OF GLASGOW AND EVEN THE BRITISH COUNCIL ITSELF
OPERATE ACTIVE CULTURAL PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND, IT SEEMS
UNFORTUNATE THAT THERE IS NO COMPARABLE USG CULTURAL INTEREST,
EFFORT OR PRESENCE HERE, DESPITE POSSIBILITY THAT SCOTTISH-
AMERICAN CULTURAL INTERFACE MAY PROVE TO BE CONSIDERABLY MORE
SIGNIFICANT THAN OUR OVER-STUFFED USIA OPERATIONS TOADY TO
IN SUCH STONE-AGE CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS AS GABON. WITH
THE WEST UNRAVELING AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED YESTERDAY,
CULTIVATION, LIKE CHARITY, MIGHT BEGIN NEARER HOME.

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